Programme Specification
Undergraduate Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body/Institution</th>
<th>University of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Institution</td>
<td>Goldsmiths, University of London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Final Award and Programme Title</td>
<td>BA (Hons) English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Interim Award(s)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of Study/Period of Registration</td>
<td>3 years full-time or 4-6 years part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code(s)</td>
<td>Q300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAA Benchmark Group</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHEQ Level of Award</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Accredited by</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Programme Specification last updated/approved</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Department/Institute</td>
<td>English and Comparative Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Departments which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme
Not Applicable

Programme overview

Our English degree gives you the opportunity to develop the critical and verbal skills needed for a confident, effective reading of literary and non-literary texts. It develops your core skills in analytical and imaginative reading and writing, and is structured to give you a broad foundation in literary and cultural studies, as well as the opportunity to study the topics that really interest you. Module options offer an historical view of writing in English, and allow you to specialise in areas including thematic and genre-based approaches to literature, comparative analysis, and literary theory. Our staff have diverse cultural backgrounds and research areas, so are ideally placed to offer you insights as you develop your own interests in American, British, European, Irish, Caribbean or other literatures in English and in translation.

The programme offers a challenging, flexible scheme of study invigorated by current research, which advances your powers of engagement with literatures in English.

Programme entry requirements

The typical GCE A-level offer is ABB (or equivalent points score). Grade A in A-level English Literature (or Language and Literature) required; A-level General Studies is not accepted.

Qualifications considered equivalent to GCE A-level ABB:
BTEC: DDM
IB: 34 points
Access: 60 credits including 45 at level 3 (including 30 at Distinction & 15 at Merit).

Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:
1. promote independent critical, analytical and evaluative skills, and intellectual curiosity
2. expand your knowledge and understanding of cultural, historical and regional evolutions and continuities of literatures in English (and in translation into English)
3. foster your awareness of a range of differing contextual approaches to the subject
4. develop your understanding of the diverse and sometimes conflicting ways in which literary texts have been interpreted and are being reinterpreted
5. promote your analytical, creative and imaginative engagement with the complexities of literary and non-literary discourse
6. stimulate your appreciation of genre and literary forms and conventions
7. encourage self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication in both written and oral domains
8. facilitate a learning environment which promotes continuing enthusiasm for the subject and offers an appropriate foundation for further study of literatures and related disciplines.

What you will be expected to achieve
By the end of the programme you should be able to demonstrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A range of writings in English from different periods, including some from before 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Writings expressive of diverse regional, cultural, and social backgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>The importance of historical and cultural contexts of literary texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Genres and their conventions and diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Methods, concepts and appropriate terminologies in literary study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>Traditional and contemporary debates in English studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Structural, rhetorical and linguistic strategies in literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>The part that literature and language play in cultural change or stasis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive and Thinking Skills</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Conduct detailed textual analysis at an enhanced level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Analyse diverse characteristics and powers of creative language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Assimilate and lucidly evaluate alternative views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>Formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5</td>
<td>Respond with insight to complex or unfamiliar modes of expression and/or narrative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Perceive interactions between historicity of production, modes of transmission, and reception in the creation of textual meanings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Use close reading to produce independent interpretations and to engage imaginatively and creatively with literary texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Recognise and discuss the role of generic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
conventions in literary texts

C4 Use critical commentary and comparative techniques discriminatingly

C5 Produce your own written work to adequate professional standards in organisation, relevance, expression, referencing, and bibliography

C6 Research literary topics using data resources and collecting and sifting primary and secondary evidence

C7 Understand and apply terminology appropriate to English Studies

C8 Design and execute an independent literary project

C9 Contribute constructively to seminar discussion on issues arising from texts

C4 Use critical commentary and comparative techniques discriminatingly

C5 Produce your own written work to adequate professional standards in organisation, relevance, expression, referencing, and bibliography

C6 Research literary topics using data resources and collecting and sifting primary and secondary evidence

C7 Understand and apply terminology appropriate to English Studies

C8 Design and execute an independent literary project

C9 Contribute constructively to seminar discussion on issues arising from texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transferable Skills</th>
<th>Taught by the following modules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1 Display enhanced communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2 Demonstrate facility in accessing verbal data using hard copy / electronic resources</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3 Handle ideas in rational, critical and evaluative ways</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4 Open-mindedness and capacity for independent judgement</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D5 Demonstrate management of own learning, including working effectively to deadlines</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D6 Demonstrate application of skills of close analysis to a variety of texts and contexts</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7 Organise information, and the ability to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8 Make positive contributions to groups, and perception of group dynamics</td>
<td>All modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9 Initiate and conduct research leading to an independent project</td>
<td>Dissertation (EN53301A)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How you will learn

The Department is committed to the centrality of the seminar in the teaching and learning process. All modules provide a weekly seminar, which reinforces knowledge gained through reading, lectures and presentations, and enables you to enhance and develop your understanding. At Level 4 learning is through weekly 1-hr lectures complementary weekly 1-hr seminars, or through 2-hr seminar. The strategy for teaching at Levels 5 and 6 allows considerable freedom of choice while ensuring a balanced experience of the differing emphases of outcome through the range of modules. The Level-6 dissertation allows for guided independent research. At all levels your knowledge and understanding is enhanced through self-directed study.

Developing knowledge and understanding
The four Level-4 modules, which include a survey module, a methods module, a poetry module and a 'period' module, support and develop all of programme outcomes A1-A8. The national requirement of acquiring knowledge of pre-1800 literature is initiated by including pre-1800 texts in three Level-4 modules, and sustained by requiring all students to take at least two modules covering pre-1800 texts at Level 5.
Developing thinking (cognitive/intellectual) skills
Cognitive and thinking skills are cultivated across the curriculum. Through seminars and lectures you are continuously exposed to—and encouraged to evolve—fresh perceptions and evaluations of literary language; through participation in seminars, you are encouraged to consider and respond to alternative views, and formulate your interpretations; and through self-managed learning you assimilate further and experiment with such perceptions and analyses.

Developing practical (including subject-specific) skills
Subject-specific skills are cultivated across the curriculum, though with varying emphases from module to module. In addition, the English Undergraduate Handbook provides initial advice on aspects of C5, and Information Services on aspects of C6. Suitable bibliographical information is normative for each module and its efficacy tested in student evaluation. Level-4 modules (especially but not exclusively ‘Approaches to Text’) give a grounding in C3 and C7, and modules at Levels 5 and 6 build less formally on that grounding. Non-assessed coursework and draft portfolio assignments constitute a valuable filter to help you acquire C5-C7. C8 is particularly—though not exclusively—addressed in the Level-6 dissertation and facilitated by an initial meeting, a guidance sheet and supervision. Tutor feedback on essays also supports C5-C7. Seminars are the forum for C9.

Developing transferable skills
Powers of expression and discussion, and the handling of ideas, are developed everywhere in the programme, since all modules require production of written work that communicates and argues well (see the Department’s assessment criteria) and all modules use seminar discussion as part of the learning process. Members of staff provide module-specific help with D2. D3-D4 should be demonstrated by staff and peer example, and are enhanced through feedback on work. D5 is a crucial skill everywhere fostered in a time-tabled curriculum: the Department eases the demands through staff liaison over in-module deadlines, and through early provision of essay questions. Personal Tutors are a potential source of individual guidance on time-management and on Personal Development.

Weekly (at Level 4) or fortnightly (at Levels 5 and 6) Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (PASS) sessions further support the Programme outcomes.

How you will be assessed
Learning outcomes appropriate to each module and to the programme as a whole are assessed by a range of methods. All modules have formative coursework (either in the form of required assignments which do not however contribute to the final mark for the module, or drafts of assignments for later formal ‘portfolio’ assessment) providing you with feedback and indications of progress. Summative assessment is typically either by portfolio of assignments (essays, projects, creative pieces), or by final unseen exam or by a combination of the two. Prior-disclosure (and part-prior-disclosure) exams are also in use, as are examinations of less than three hours duration (where another form of assessment is also involved in the same module). Another form of summative assessment is the level-6 dissertation (6–8,000 words), which is written on a topic chosen in consultation with a supervisor and which will display and combine knowledge, understanding and methods gained throughout the levels of the BA English programme.

Cognitive and Thinking Skills are assessed widely in your written assignments and examinations. (Some elements of assessment focus on particular skills; e.g. exam context questions for some modules at Level 5 robustly test B5.) The subject-specific skills in C1-7 are tested through the variety of assessment methods in use in the Department. C8 is assessed in a number of modules, and especially in the dissertation. C9 is included among the Department’s measures of student progress but for technical reasons (policies on anonymity, verification) it is informally assessed.

D1-D7 are persistently tested during the programme through the requirement to produce, by specified
dates, written discussions and other assignments, through the dissertation project, and through the curriculum-wide adoption of seminars as one key learning medium. Attainment in D1-D7 is measured in written degree work of all kinds. D8 is an ubiquitous element of the curriculum: it is subject to formative tutor assessment by oral feedback.

Achievement of outcomes is assessed through written work in relation to a module’s and the programme’s outcomes with regard to (a) the Department’s general assessment criteria, (b) the particular assessment criteria identified for a given module, and (c) the requirements of the specific essay or assignment or examination answer undertaken.

The Department’s general assessment criteria for written work are as follows and (except where the nature of the assignment is not a critical essay) you are advised to bear them in mind throughout your work in your degree programme:

1. Relevance of discussion and argument to the topic; ability to discriminate between merely descriptive statements and critical analysis, and to identify pertinent issues with precision;
2. Ability to present, sustain and conclude in expressive language a discussion, investigation or complex argument based on close and imaginative engagement with the text(s) in question, and to draw reasoned and logical conclusions;
3. Clarity of the work in terms of legibility, spelling, punctuation and grammar; and the professionalism of the presentation in accordance with the guidelines on ‘Writing and Presenting Essays’ in the English Undergraduate Handbook.

Coursework submitted for formative assessment will be returned with a broad advisory classification; summative assessment is assigned a percentage mark. The following explanations indicate how marks are assigned, but note that criteria are flexible: an excellent discussion may be compromised by poor expression or organisation; an eloquent argument may be fundamentally irrelevant. Examples of other factors adversely affecting a mark would be repetition, or manifest incompleteness or serious failure to meet the prescribed length.

### Marking criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Specific Marking Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80-100%</td>
<td>I: First</td>
<td>Exceptional grasp of all the issues raised by the question, but also a truly original, creative approach to the question, challenging current scholarship. Demonstrates full independence of thought, exceptional powers of analysis and synthesis and exceptional insights into primary texts and critical contexts. Communicated with intellectual brilliance in a superbly structured piece of work to an exceptional, professional standard of execution, displaying evidence of an exceptional application of knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in module and programme outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>I: First</td>
<td>Mature and full grasp of issues raised by the question, communicated fluently within a structured essay demonstrating analytical rigour and an element of independent thought and reaching cogent conclusions; supported by detailed insight into primary texts and (where appropriate) into context and/or secondary criticism; a professional standard of execution. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a distinguished level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>III: Upper Second</td>
<td>Lucid and analytical discussion showing clear understanding of some of the issues raised by the question, and making</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You take 4 modules (120 credits) from a range characterised by wide literary, historical and contextual scope, at least 60 credits of which must be from those designated by the Department as encompassing pre-1800 literature. These are indicated in the list of Level-5 modules below by an asterisk. (NB: In any

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>III: Lower Second (Good)</td>
<td>Recognition of some significant implications in the question, and an ability to ground discussion and conclusions in a satisfactory range of primary and (where appropriate) secondary reading; evidence of some facility in professional modes of structure, expression and presentation. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a very good level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49%</td>
<td>III: Third (Pass)</td>
<td>A limited attempt to answer the question, demonstrating a basic familiarity with module text(s) and/or issues; adequate competence in organisation and expression. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a satisfactory level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39%</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>An essay may fail on grounds of inadequate relevance to the question; lack of evidence of your having studied the work set for the module; incoherent expression and argument; learning outcomes insufficiently demonstrated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-24%</td>
<td>Bad fail</td>
<td>A submission that shows a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Written work shows no evidence of an attempt to address the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-9%</td>
<td>Very bad fail</td>
<td>A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non valid attempt and unit must be re-sat).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Non submission or plagiarised</td>
<td>A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How the programme is structured**

The programme is available in full-time (3 years) and part-time (4-6 years) modes. You take modules worth 360 credits, 120 credits at each level. All four Level-4 modules (30 credits each) form a foundation and are compulsory. Subsequent modules are designated specifically as being at either Level 5 or Level 6, and are taken by full-time students in the second and third years respectively. In line with national benchmarks for the subject, you must take at least two modules (60 credits) at Level 5 from modules which encompass pre-1800 texts. At Level 6 you must take and pass a 6-8,000 word dissertation on a topic of your own choice. All the Department’s modules are informed to a greater or lesser extent by the research interests of staff.

**Level 4:** All first year modules are compulsory for this programme:
- Explorations in Literature; Approaches to Text (including weekly sessions on Practical Academic Skills & Strategies);
- Engaging Poetry;
- Literature of the Victorian Period

**Progression requirements Level 4 to Level 5 (Year 1 to Year 2)**
Minimum of 3 modules (90 credits) to be passed.

**Level 5/Year 2** (direct entry is possible for suitably qualified applicants)
You take 4 modules (120 credits) from a range characterised by wide literary, historical and contextual scope, at least 60 credits of which must be from those designated by the Department as encompassing pre-1800 literature. These are indicated in the list of Level-5 modules below by an asterisk. (NB: In any
given year some modules may be temporarily suspended owing to staffing changes/sabbatical leave.)

- *Drama & Transgression
- European Cinema
- Inventing the Nation: American Literature in the Mid-Nineteenth Century
- Language Learning & Teaching
- Literary London
- *Literature of the English Renaissance
- *Literature of the Later Middle Ages: Society & the Individual Moderns
- *Old English
- Post-Victorian English Literature
- *Restoration & 18th-century Literature
- *Sensibility & Romanticism: Revolutions in Writing and Society
- *Shakespeare
- Varieties of English

A range of single-term 15-credit modules are also offered at this level. The list may vary from year to year according to the availability of staff, but the following are typical:

- Bearing Witness: Literature, Memory, Trauma
- Black British Literature
- Contemporary Arab Migrant Writing
- Hollywood Cinema: Filming the Nation, 1915-1945
- Hollywood Cinema: Filming the Nation, 1945 to the Present Day
- Narratives of the Great War (1916-22)
- Surrealism and Dreams

Progression requirements Level 5 to Level 6 (Year 2 to Year 3) Minimum of 3 modules (90 credits) to be passed.

Level 6/Year 3
In addition to a 6-8,000 word dissertation on a topic of your choice (which you must pass in order to be awarded your degree), you take 90 credits in Level-6 modules from the list below. (NB: In any given year some options may be temporarily suspended owing to staffing changes/sabbatical leave.)

- Caribbean Women Writers
- Creating the Text
- Decadence
- Modern American Fiction
- Modern Poetry
- Modernism & Drama (1880-1930)
- The Art of the Novel
- Postcolonial Literatures in English
- Studies in Literature and Film
- The Art of the Novel
- The Detective Story in English
- The Emergence of Modern America
- The English Renaissance Stage
- Contemporary African Migrant Literature & Film: Mediating Human Rights

There is also each session a range of single-term 15-credit modules at this level. The list varies from year to year according to the availability of staff, but the following are typical: Greek Tragedy: The
Political Theatre of Classical Athens; Language & Gender; Narratives of the Great War (1923-33); The American South; The Classic Fairy Tale; Writing, Gender & Anxiety; Writing the European City; Work Placement Module.

All the Department’s modules are informed to a greater or lesser extent by the research interests of staff.

Academic Year of Study 1
All Modules at Level 4 are compulsory. Students must take

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explorations in Literature</td>
<td>EN51001A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaches to Text</td>
<td>EN51002B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging Poetry</td>
<td>EN51007B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature of the Victorian Period</td>
<td>EN51011A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Year of Study 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modules to a total value of 120 credits from a list of approved level-5 modules available annually from the Department of English &amp; Comparative Literature. Modules to a total value of at least 60 credits must be chosen from those designated by the Department as encompassing pre-1800 literature</td>
<td>EN51001A</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Year of Study 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Status</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>EN53301A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modules to a total value of 90 credits from a list of approved level-6 modules available annually from the Department of English &amp; Comparative Literature</td>
<td>EN53301A</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic support

Departmental Support

Personal and study skills support: The Department recognises the importance of supporting students’ learning with high quality teaching that is responsive to their individual and collective needs. The programme has been designed to be as accessible as possible to all students. The Programme Coordinator, module convenors and module tutors are available to discuss any issues arising throughout the course of study. Additional direct support is available through staff being available at guaranteed consultation/feedback times weekly during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Outside these hours, students may arrange an appointment with any member of staff via email or telephone.

Programme and module information, an English Undergraduate Handbook, as well as timetable details are available to students in advance of the beginning of term. Specific information will be available via the Goldsmiths Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), at both a departmental level and through VLE resources dedicated to this programme and the constituent modules. Students are also expected to
attend special induction meetings prior to the commencement of teaching, when they are offered further guidance regarding timetables and enrolment procedures.

Feedback will be provided on assessments. Formative assessments which are submitted by the deadline will be marked so that feedback is available within five term-time weeks of the deadline. Summative feedback will be available on request: (1) to continuing students at the beginning of the subsequent year of study, and (2) to those graduating as soon as possible after completion of the programme requirements.

The Department offers tutorials on effective academic writing techniques throughout the teaching year and students are welcome to book sessions in these in order to obtain advice on particular writing issues; they may also be recommended to attend one of these tutorial sessions in order to pursue aspects noted during essay feedback. In addition a series of Practical Academic Skills and Strategies (weekly at Level 4 and broadly fortnightly at levels 5 and 6) is offered to support study and subject-specific skills.

The Programme Coordinator is available to offer advice, guidance or clarification of modules, options, requirements and regulations. The Programme Co-ordinator or the Personal Tutor can also offer support in cases of academic difficulty. Should further advice be necessary, the Department's Examinations Officers, the Senior Tutor and the Head of Department can also be consulted, according to the circumstance. The Department Business Manager, the Undergraduate Co-ordinator and the Undergraduate Secretary will offer additional support and clarification about various aspects of the programme, deadlines, and regulations.

College Support:

Goldsmiths provides a wide range of pastoral services to support students. Student Advice and Wellbeing provides assistance with practical issues including funding and housing, support for mental health and a Chaplaincy linked to local faith communities. We have an agreement with a local NHS doctors surgery to provide medical services to our students. Our Inclusion and Learning Support team provide sessions to help students improve their academic skills and they are able to arrange support and reasonable adjustments for disabled students including access to assistive technology.

For students whose first language is not English, the English Language Centre provides instruction in English language and English for Academic Purposes through tailor-made timetables of study skill sessions. Via the ELC, students are also able to consult the Royal Literary Fund Fellows, professional writers who visit Goldsmiths to foster good writing practice across all disciplines and media.

Students are encouraged to develop and maintain an Higher Education Achievement Report during the course of study. This can record aspirations, plans and goals, record achievement against goals and enable progress monitoring. Further details can be found on the College web site (www.goldsmiths.ac.uk).

Learning resources
Support for independent study is through the conjoined library and electronic resources in the Rutherford Building, which, as well as books and journals (in hard copy or electronic format) also hosts a large collection of multimedia and audiovisual material. You are also encouraged to use the extensive collections of Senate House Library (the central University of London Library). Guided Tours and training in the facilities of Senate House Library will be provided. Video and other audio-visual media are strategically used in parts of the programme.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects

Although not vocational in the narrow sense of the word, the degree does develop linguistic and critical
skills that provide a sound basis for careers in areas including journalism, the media, publishing, the Civil Service, local government, teaching and research, and the commercial world. The programme’s emphasis on the development of critical and analytical skills, on achieving proficiency in assessing evidence and in expressing ideas clearly, its commitment to enhancing the ability to bring together insights from a range of subjects, and providing a thorough education in the reading and comparison of texts from diverse cultures are all attributes that are attractive to prospective employers. Our graduates learn to think critically and creatively, to solve problems, and to communicate with clarity. If you obtain a good degree you may consider postgraduate study – undertaking original research or studying for a professional qualification – at Goldsmiths College or elsewhere. Most recent statistics regarding our graduates indicate that a significant percentage gain employment or a place on a postgraduate course of study within a few months of leaving the College.

The Work Placement Module will enhance your employability by developing your familiarity of a particular working environment. If you obtain a good degree you may consider postgraduate study – undertaking original research or studying for a professional qualification – at Goldsmiths College or elsewhere. Most recent statistics regarding our graduates indicate that only one in ten fails to gain employment or a place on a postgraduate module of study after they leave the College.

Goldsmiths also offers a range of opportunities, including Master’s and Doctoral programmes, taught diplomas and certificates, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education for prospective teachers.

The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree

Undergraduate degrees have a total value of 360 credits. They are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Full-time students take modules to the value of 120 credits each year and part-time students not less than 45 credits and not more than 90 credits each year. Each full–time year corresponds to a level of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

Year 1 = Level 4
Year 2 = Level 5
Year 3 = Level 6

Modules:
Modules are defined as:
“Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
“Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree
“Core” – which must be taken as part of the degree and passed with a mark of at least 40%.

Progression:
Full-time students are required to have passed modules to a minimum of 90 credits before proceeding to the next year. Part-time students normally must pass new modules to a minimum value of 45 credits before proceeding to the next year.
In addition, some programmes may specify particular modules which must be passed, irrespective of the minimum requirements, before proceeding to the next year.

Award of the degree:
In order to graduate with a classified degree, students must successfully complete modules to the value of 360 credits. However if a module which has not be defined as “core” has been failed with a mark of 35-39% and all three permitted attempts have been used, this module may be compensated (treated as if it has been passed) so long as the average mean mark for all 120 credits at that level is 45% or above. No more than 60 credits may be compensated this way across a programme and no more than 30 at any one level.

Classification:
Final degree classification will be calculated on the basis of a student's best marks for modules.
equivalent to 90 credits at Level 4, 105 credits at level 5 and 105 credits at level 6, applying a relative weighting of 1:3:5 to modules at level 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

Degrees are awarded with the following classifications:
First Class – 70%+
Upper Second – 60-69%
Lower Second – 50-59%
Third – 40-49%

Students who, following the application of compensation and having used all their permitted resit attempts, have passed modules to the value of 300-345 credits, at least 60 of which are at level 6 may be awarded a pass degree.

The above information is intended as a guide. For further information, please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate Students, which may be found here: http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/studentregulations/

Programme-specific rules and facts

This programme specification summarizes the BA in English at Goldsmiths University of London, identifying learning outcomes and skills that you should typically achieve by engaging fully in the learning process that is offered. Further details of the components of the programme can be found online at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk and are also available from the Programme Co-ordinator in the Department of English & Comparative Literature.

How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules must be formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year in departmental staff/student forums and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme also has at least one External Examiner who produces an annual report which comments on the standards of awards and student achievement.

This output is considered with other relevant data in the process of Annual Programme Review, to which all programmes are subject, and which aims to identify both good practice and issues which require resolution.

Every six years all programmes within a department are also subject to a broader periodic review. This aims to ensure that they remain current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all of these procedures are published on the webpages of the Quality Office (http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/).